

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1419

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, PFOR, GW, IT, GR, EG, PINR

SUBJECT: LITGAZ SCORES CIA "PROVOCATIONS", CITING DETAILS  
OF VARTANOV CASE

1. SUMMARY. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA FULMINATES FOR NEARLY AN  
ENTIRE PAGE IN ITS NOV 24 ISSUE AGAINST "SYSTEMATIC CIA  
PROVOCATIONS" AGAINST SOVIETS ABROAD, CONCENTRATING ON  
VARTANOV CASE AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLE. PIECE SPECIFICALLY  
IDENTIFIED FSO WILLEMS AS A CIA AGENT WORKING IN THE DEPART-  
MENT OF STATE. PARENTHETICALLY, THE ARTICLE WONDERS  
WHO IS THE REAL FOE OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.  
RECOMMEND EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTEST THIS ARTICLE WITH BOTH  
MFA AND LITGAZ. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE ON  
VARTANOV CASE ASAP. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. THE ARTICLE, BY GRIGORIY KOZLOV, IS ENTITLED

"SYSTEMATIC PROVOCATION" AND HOGS THE LITGAZ INTERNATIONAL LIFE PAGE. THE ARTICLE APPEARS UNDER STANDARD LITGAZ RUBRIC "HELSINKI: WHO IS OPPOSED?", AND KOZLOV REFERS AT THE OUTSET TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION THE SOVIETS ARE MAINTAINING WITH THE WEST. HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO THOSE "IN INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS" IN THE WEST WHO ARE OPPOSED TO DETENTE AND WHO INITIATE SYSTEMATIC PROVOCATIONS AGAINST SOVIET CITIZENS. THE SINS OF THE CIA AND ITS INFILTRATION OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S. HAVE BEEN WELL DOCUMENTED, HE DECLARES, AND POSE A CONTINUING MENACE IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER (AROUND ONE THOUSAND) OF SOVIET EXCHANGEES WHO DEPART FOR THE U.S. EACH YEAR UNDER VARIOUS EXCHANGES.

3. KOZLOV RECALLS THAT IN AUG 1976 THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON PROTESTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT CIA INTERFERENCE WITH SOVIET SCIENTIFIC WORKERS. HE ALSO MENTIONS THE CASE OF SOVIET UN SECOND SECRETARY O.V. KHARCHENKO. SUCH ACTIVITY IS INCONSISTENT WITH "IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS" REGULARIZING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. IT IS "VERY SERIOUS."

4. THE AUTHOR THEN RECOUNTS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL THE VARTANOV CASE. ACCORDING TO KOZLOV, VARTANOV WAS TRAPPED BY CIA PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO, LED BY STATION CHIEF JAMES FIS AND FLANAGAN BRAYEN (PHON), AND MADE TO FILL OUT A FORM CALLED "THE BASIC RUSSIAN QUESTIONNAIRE," AMONG THE ENTRIES ON WHICH WAS A REQUEST TO SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF THE MILITARY UNITS WITH WHICH VARTANOV HAD SERVED AND ITS PRECISE DISPOSITION. FIS THEN SPELLED OUT WHAT THE CIA EXPECTED FROM VARTANOV: TO RETURN TO WORK AND FEED INFORMATION TO U.S. SPIES, OR TO PUBLISH MATERIAL IN WHICH HE WOULD DENOUNCE EXPANSIONIST SOVIET PLANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. "EMBASSY INFORMATION OFFICE CHIEF CHRISTOPHER BARRETT," A CIA EMPLOYEE, ACCORDING TO KOZLOV, WAS ALSO INVOLVED.

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5. IN DUE COURSE, THE STORY CONTINUES, THE CIA ARRANGED TO FAKE DOCUMENTATION (WEST GERMAN PASSPORTS) IN THE NAME OF SCHILLING FOR VARTANOV, WIFE AND THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, AND FLEW THE FAMILY TO ROME IN AN ARMY C-12 BROUGHT TO CAIRO FROM GREECE FOR THAT PURPOSE. ROME-NEW YORK PASSAGE WAS EXPECTED BY ISSUANCE OF TOURIST VISAS. PICTURES OF THE TWA TICKETS, A C-12 BARRETT AND FEES ACCOMPANY THE STORY.

THE ACCOUNT CONTINUES WITH THE SOVIETS' STAY AT  
TOLSTOY FARM, VARANTOV'S REDEFECTION, AND THE ACTIONS  
OF "CIA AGENT LEONARD WILLEMS" AT THE AIRPORT.  
ACCORDING TO KOZLOV, WILLEMS ATTEMPTED AT JFK TO  
SEPARATE VARTANOV'S FROM ACCOMPANYING SOVIETS  
OFFICIALS AND AT THE LAST MOMENT TO DISRUPT THEIR  
DEPARTURE. WHEN THIS FAILED, WILLEMS IS QUOTED AS  
SAYING, "WE HAVE LONG ARMS, MR. VARTANOV, AND DON'T  
EXPECT MERCY FROM US." END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE FIRMLY  
PROTEST LITGAZ' OUTRAGEOUS PUBLIC "DISTORTION" OF THE FACTS OF THE  
VARTANOV CASE WITH THE MFA (PARTICULARLY SINCE KOZLOV  
OBVIOUSLY WAS GIVEN ACCESS TO MFA PROTEST NOTE ON  
CASE) AS WELL AS WITH LITGAZ ITSELF. PLEASE  
ADVISE. MEANWHILE, THE LITGAZ PIECE HAS STIMULATED NUMEROUS  
QUESTIONS FROM U.S. NEWSMEN HERE ABOUT THE VARTANOV  
CASE. WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE ASAP.

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